

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 3, page 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Instead of using a single default router to transmit data over the IP network 22, a technique described in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/523,056, filed March 10, 2000, [[\_\_\_\_\_ [IBM Docket No. FR9-99-008]]] which is hereby incorporated by reference herein, is used. In this new technique, a host uses a new layer between the IP layer and the network layer, this additional network layer is operable to select one router from a set of candidate routers, such as the routers 26 or 28, by running an algorithm based upon parameters defined in the data packet which is transmitted.